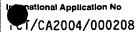
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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 C02F1/52 B01D B01D9/00 B01J8/24 //(C02F1/52,101:10,101:16) According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) CO2F BOID BOIJ IPC 7 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data, COMPENDEX C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Category 33,34, PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN X 40-44, vol. 2000, no. 01, 31 January 2000 (2000-01-31) 60-63 & JP 11 267665 A (KURITA WATER IND LTD), 5 October 1999 (1999-10-05) cited in the application 1-5,31,abstract 32 33. PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN X 40-44, vol. 2000, no. 15, 60-63 6 April 2001 (2001-04-06) & JP 2000 334474 A (KURITA WATER IND LTD; JAPAN SEWAGE WORKS AGENCY) 5 December 2000 (2000-12-05) 1,2,31, abstract Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention 'A' document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone 'E' earlier document but published on or after the international filing date 'L' document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) 'Y' document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an Inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 23/11/2004 17 November 2004 **Authorized officer** Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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